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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : PATENT

Volkmar KLEIN et al. :

Serial No.: 10/589,964 : Art Unit: 1797

Filed: August 18, 2006 : Examiner: M. Gonzalez

For: FILTER DEVICE :

**RESPONSE**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the July 17, 2009 final Office Action, reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 11, 12 and 14-26 are pending in the application, with claim 11 being independent.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103**

Amended claim 11 covers a filter device having a filter housing 22, a filter element 10, a fluid container 40 and a connector 44. The filter housing has fluid connections 30 and 36 and an exterior surface. The filter element is held in the filter housing. The filter container also has an exterior surface, and is located adjacent to and side-by-side with the filter housing to define a lateral space therebetween. The connector couples the fluid connections to the fluid container, and has at least one longitudinally displaceable blocking part 46 blocking the fluid connections in a blocking position (Figs. 1, 3A and 3B) and opening the fluid connections in an open position